Strange and

Wonderful News

Of the BIRTH of a

Monſtrous CHILD

With Two HEADS, and Three ARMS,

Which was lately Born at

ATTENREE, in the County of *MEATH*,

IN

IRELAND.

Dublin, January the 31th 168⅘.

SIR,

YOU may remember I made you a promiſe, That as ſoon as I had a ſight of that *Monſtrous Birth* mentioned in a former Letter, I would ſend you a particular Relation of it: And yeſterday it being expoſed next door to me, I accordingly took time to view every part of it, and made my particular obſervations on every point needful to be remembred. It hath two Heads upon two well-proportion'd Necks: the Heads of the bigneſs of any Child of a quarter or half a year old; fair and large, well-proportion'd and comly Faces, with Hair upon each of the Heads; not the leaſt defect (as I could perceive) either in Eyes, Noſes, Ears, or Mouths. The Shoulders are as large as a Child of two or three years of age, proportion'd to bear two Heads. I had a long Pipe that I was ſmoaking in, which I laid acroſs between the Shoulders, and found it to be ſeven Inches by meaſure and better in breadth

breadth on the back, from one Shoulder to the other. Between the two Necks (which ſtand at a proportionable diſtance) there grows out an Arm, with an Hand, with all its Fingers and Nails, aſcending upright between the two Heads, and is a full hands breadth (if not more) higher than the Heads. The upper-part of the Body is very thick, but downwards is much ſmaller, and it hath two Arms and two Legs as in other Bodies, duly plac'd, but they are but ſlender, and ſomewhat longer (in my apprehenſion) than the uſual length. They have all the Fingers and Toes as others have, with Nails upon them. It hath the Privy-parts of a Male-Child, but by the Relation they appear to have been two diſtinct Conceptions; for there was two Hearts found in that ſingle Trunk, and ſo of other inwards; and I perceived there was a difference in the ſize of the Heads, and the two Faces did ſeem to me, the one to be Male, and the other Female.

And thus I have given you as exact an account as I could bear away of this Prodigious Birth. It was born about ten days ſince at a place called *Attenree*, in the Barony of *Kelly*, in the County of *Meath*; the Parents but poor people, the Father a holder of the Plough, and the Mother a young Woman, this being her firſt Child. When I ſaw the bigneſs of the Heads and breadth of the Shoulders, I could not but ſtand and admire how it was poſſible for a Woman to bring it forth, and live; for the Mother is ſtill living, though very weak, but the Child was Still-born.

A Gentlewoman told me, That a Friend of hers, a Surgeon, not long ſince was employed to open a Child that was born with two Heads. But of a different nature to this.

We are all in peace at home and abroad, and our Weather very open, having had ſome Rain, but not very cold. This is all at preſent, but that I am

Your affectionate Servant,

Ag. 17 E. B.

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